ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC,

FROM

The Directors of the General Lying-in-Hospital of Edinburgh.

THE situation of PREGNANT WOMEN in indigent circumstances claims the attention of the Public in a peculiar manner. They are unable to procure proper assistance during child-bearing, and have not power to enjoy that undisturbed repose after delivery, which is often necessary for their recovery; their offspring is therefore frequently lost, and their own health much impaired.

WITH the view of obviating these evils, Lying-in-Hospitals have been established in almost every enlightened nation, and have been found to be extensively beneficial.

IT is surprising, that, although the poor of Edinburgh are not in more comfortable situations than in other cities, subscriptions for erecting a Lying-in-Hospital have been begun only within these few weeks.

THE proposals for such an institution, published by the Professor of Midwifery, having received the approbation of the *Senatus Academicus* of the University, and the aid of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, and of the Royal College of Physicians, several benevolent individuals have concurred in promoting the design. A meeting of the subscribers was held, and the charge of carrying forward the establishment was entrusted to Directors chosen by them.

IN the discharge of this duty, the Directors think it incumbent on them to make the nature of the institution as extensively known as possible, and, for that purpose, submit the following considerations to the attention of the Public.

THE principal object in the erection of this Hospital, is to establish a proper provision for the wives of the working poor, and to afford an asylum to the wives of Soldiers and Sailors, who, remote from their relations, and many of them from their country, are often, during pregnancy and child-bearing, in circumstances truly deplorable.

THAT

THAT aſſiſtance is due or ought to be given to ſuch patients alone would be an uncharitable opinion; and therefore the Directors have determined to extend the benefits of the General Lying-in Hoſpital to unmarried women alſo.

SEPARATE houſes might, perhaps, with more propriety be allotted to them; but, as it is not probable that funds could be obtained for two Hoſpitals, the Directors have endeavoured, by proper regulations, to prevent any evils which might be ſuppoſed to ariſe from the admiſſion of unmarried women.

WITH theſe views, abandoned women will be totally excluded from the Hoſpital. The unmarried patients will be lodged in a part of the building unconnected with the wards appropriated to the married, entering by a ſeparate door, and, if poſſible, from a different ſtreet; and no communication ſhall be allowed between them. They ſhall be attended by Midwives alone, except when the aſſiſtance of the Phyſicians of the Hoſpital may be neceſſary.

As the admiſſion of certain pregnant unmarried women may thus, they truſt, reſcue many from deſpondency, and prevent the raſh conſequences of deſpair, or the unhappy effects of public infamy, ſo too the Directors look forward with ſatisfaction to the eſtabliſhment of ſuch a ſchool for the inſtruction of Midwives, who will by theſe means be qualified to ſave many valuable lives in every part of the country.

BESIDES theſe two claſſes of women, the Directors have adopted regulations reſpecting unmarried women, in a condition ſomewhat better than thoſe, to whom it may afford an opportunity of regaining reputation, by totally concealing their ſhame.

THE board which will be expected from ſuch women will, they hope, lay the foundation for a fund which will enable them to extend the benefits of this inſtitution to the wives of ſuch tradeſmen, &c. who, from the peculiar circumſtances of their family, cannot leave their own houſes, but who are ill able to procure the aſſiſtance and care which may be neceſſary to their recovery.

A building, on a ſcale proportioned to the number of patients propoſed in Dr Hamilton's plan, capable of being enlarged when the funds will allow, will be begun as ſoon as the weather is favourable.

THE recommendation of patients by ſubſcribers will be preferred, in proportion to the amount, and according to the date of their ſubſcriptions.

THE ſucceſs of the General Lying-in Hoſpital, the Directors truſt, will be equal to the important advantages which they hope it will afford to the large and uſeful portion of the community for which the charity is intended.

EDINBURGH, FEB. 24. 1792.

GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

WE agree to pay to the Treaſurer choſen by the ſubſcribers of the General Lying-in Hoſpital of Edinburgh, agreeably to the plan publiſhed by the Profeſſor of Midwifery, the ſums annexed to our reſpective names, for the purpoſe of carrying ſo neceſſary and charitable an eſtabliſhment into execution.